

IN HONOR OF CHARLENE STARR  
(CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE)

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Charlene Starr has, for over 30 years, been an employee of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office where she now supervises 12 staff personnel in the Tax Foreclosure Department who process between 3,000 and 4,000 tax foreclosure cases each year to ensure either that the appropriate taxes are paid or that the properties proceed to foreclosure sale, an often complex process.

From an early age, Charlene listened to her parents' teachings to develop a good work ethic and to appreciate her good fortune in what she had and to care for those who were less fortunate. She has sought to combine those in performing her job, while retaining a compassionate attitude towards others.

Charlene is also proud of her role in her office's receiving grants from the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University and in a national award as one of 4 models for "Re-inventing Government".

A Brooklyn resident, Charlene was active for many years with members of the Cleveland Police Department in the "Cops, Kids & Christmas" program providing toys for unfortunate children in orphanages, hospitals and other locations and in gathering toys and contributions throughout the year at public events. She enjoys camping and fishing, cooking, reading and computers, among other activities and is an active member of St. Colman's Church.

RE: AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE,  
MARCH 11, 1997

### HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill to require notice to automobile insurance policy holders before a paid up policy can be either canceled or renewal refused.

Many of my constituents without warning or for insignificant reasons are being cut off of automobile insurance coverage and with little time allowed to find another company.

My bill will require at least 180 days notice before a cancellation or decision not to renew can take effect provided the premiums are fully paid up and there is no court order cancelling the holder's driver's license.

In many places in my district the only means of transportation is one's automobile. To have to drive without insurance coverage is a public hazard. People need to be told well in advance if a company is refusing to renew or plans to discontinue coverage.

This is not interference with the company's right to decide who to cover or not cover. It is only a requirement of due notice. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

H.R.—

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SALES OF AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE POLICIES.

No State shall authorize the sale of automobile insurance policies unless such policies are subject to cancellation in accordance with section 2.

### SEC. 2. CANCELLATION OF AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE POLICIES.

A paid-up policy of automobile insurance may be canceled only if—

(1) a written notice of cancellation is mailed or delivered to the last known mailing address of the named insured as shown in the records of the insurer at least 180 days before the effective date of the cancellation;

(2) the insurer shows that the named insured had the insured's driver's license suspended or revoked; or

(3) the insurer shows that the name insured has been convicted of, or forfeited bail for, any action arising out of or in connection with the operation of a motor vehicle that is grounds for suspension or revocation of a driver's license.

### SEC. 3. RENEWAL OF AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE POLICIES.

An insurer shall mail or deliver to an insured a written notice of non-renewal of an automobile insurance policy at the last known mailing address of the named insured as shown in the records of the insurer at least 180 days before the expiration of the policy.

### SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) INSURER.—An insurer which violates section 1, 2, or 3 shall with respect to the insured involved in such violation—

(1) accept an application or written request for automobile insurance coverage at a rate and on the same terms and conditions as are available to its insureds under the insurer's automobile insurance coverage;

(2) reinstate the automobile insurance coverage for such insured to the end of the applicable policy period.

(b) OTHERS.—Any person who violates section 1, 2, or 3 shall be subject to—

(1) a cease and desist order issued in accordance with section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45); or

(2) a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000.

## RECOGNIZING THE NORWIN AREA CELEBRATION 2000

### HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, as the turn of the century approaches, Americans will become more and more excited about the time in which we are living. A new millennium is an event which we are indeed honored to witness, and such an event is worthy of celebration.

To this end, an organization in my Congressional District, the Fourth District of Pennsylvania, has been hard at work to ensure that the closing years of this century and the first year of the next century are welcomed with enthusiasm. The Norwin Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with local schools and businesses, has arranged an impressive cal-

February 9, 1999

endar of events for Celebration 2000, including parades, a business EXPO, and, of course, a First Night 2000.

These events will certainly unite the people, businesses, governments, churches, and other organizations of not only the Norwin Area, but all of Westmoreland County, by providing the community with three years of high visibility events and activities.

Clearly, the time and effort it takes to organize such a gala event is worthy of our recognition here today. I ask that the Members of the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing these efforts. Through their hard work and dedication, Celebration 2000 will be a project worthy of taking place once in a 1,000 years.

## RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL RESPONDS TO HURRICANE MITCH

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the tremendous energy and compassion displayed by a group of students from Richmond High School in Richmond, California. Seeing the devastation of Hurricane Mitch on the nightly news, these students took action and responded. As reported in the following article, their efforts brought together the entire Richmond High community in the spirit of giving, and the people of both Central America and Richmond, California, are better for it.

[From the WC Times, Jan. 13, 1999]

## RICHMOND HIGH GIVES LOADS AFTER STORM

(By Mary Reiley)

They collected boxes and boxes of food, clothing and over-the-counter medicines for adults and children who survived Hurricane Mitch, which devastated Honduras and Nicaragua in October.

Students in Richmond High's Alma Latina Club and leadership class collected so many boxes that their large truck could not carry all the donated items to the American Red Cross.

And it wasn't just the club and class members who contributed items and money.

Students attending dances, sports and the annual Harvest Festival got in by bringing canned foods.

Parents brought items on report card night, and staff members loaned their faces so students could pay to throw pies at them.

Students and staff from Helms Middle School and West Contra Costa Adult Education also gave.

"It speaks well of the community that we can come together when there's a need," said Isidora Martinez-McAfee.

She sponsors the Alma Latina Club and is the bilingual U.S. history and government teacher.

Most of the students in her classes and the club are from Mexico or Central America, Martinez-McAfee said, so they felt a connection to the hurricane victims.

When the club decided to send items from its annual canned food drive to Hurricane Mitch survivors, the leadership class rallied the student body to participate, said senior Maria Miranda, 18.

She is a member of the leadership class and the student body's school board representative.

Everyone enrolled in social science classes at the school, grades nine through 12, is required to complete at least 15 hours of community service.

Membership in the leadership class and Alma Latina is not required.

Kia Yancy, 17, and a senior said she would still have become involved if there were no service rule.

"Richmond High did a good deed," Kia said.

"We were looking out for the people in Central America."

The leadership class member said it and the club worked together, collecting, bagging and boxing the goods and loading them on the truck at 7:30 a.m. Friday.

They gathered enough to fill more than half a classroom with items, she said. Everything was delivered to the Red Cross for eventual shipment to Central America.

Martinez-McAfee said the students are happy with the donations, but some are disappointed about reported delays in delivery.

"We hope it gets to where it's supposed to be going," Maria said. "We wanted to help."

The effort was worthwhile for students because it unified and helped show what is outside of school, Maria said.

"It gave them a sense of what's going on in the world, and it's healthy for the mind, too," she said.

Nancy Ivey teaches the leadership class, plus social science and wood shop.

She sees the students' efforts as a demonstration of one more way they set goals and achieve them.

"The students feel the school has a negative and false reputation," Ivey said.

Farm Saephan, 16, junior class treasurer and member of the leadership class said, "We're doing whatever we can to help people in need. It made us feel good about ourselves. The people (in Central America) in need more than we are here."

## IN HONOR AND FAITH: RECOGNIZING THE HEROISM OF THE IMMORTAL FOUR CHAPLAINS

### HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the Immortal Four Chaplains' heroism and legacy that serve as an example to the lives of individuals who have stood up courageously in the face of hatred and prejudice to protect others.

On February 3, 1943, the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester* was struck by a torpedo from a German U-boat off the shores of Greenland. Nearly 700 people perished in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. Four Army Chaplains showed extraordinary faith and personal sacrifice by calming fears, handing out life jackets, and guiding men to safety. Many of the 230 men who survived owed their lives to these Four Chaplains.

This historic event and circumstances have received recognition in the past with Congressional Resolutions and a postage stamp issuance commemorating the heralded event. At this point, however, memories have under-

standably faded. This heroic act and example could serve as a focal point today drawing together Americans of varied faiths and ethnic backgrounds positively reflecting upon challenging America's cultural pluralism and diversity. The lesson of mutual respect, tolerance, and sacrifice need to be learned anew by each generation of Americans. The Four Chaplains stand out as an extraordinary human experience, relevant yesterday and today.

Set against the example of the Immortal Four Chaplains, the Immortal Four Chaplains Foundation was formed to provide a platform to tell the stories of those who have risked their lives to save others of a different race or faith. The Minnesota based foundation was founded in 1997 by the nephew and daughter of two of the Chaplains and has drawn the support and participation of former Vice President Walter Mondale, former Senator Bob Dole, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and many other prominent leaders, including survivors of the German U-boat 223 which sank the *Dorchester*.

On Sunday, February 7th, 1999, in Minnesota, I had the honor of jointly awarding Archbishop Desmond Tutu with the first Immortal Chaplains prize for Humanity. On his first trip to Minnesota, the Archbishop, whose rise to worldwide leadership in defending the rights of the oppressed, first drew attention from his driving voice against Apartheid while Nelson Mandela was imprisoned in South Africa. As the Anglican Archbishop of that country, Tutu received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his courageous stand against great odds. On his retirement as Archbishop of Cape Town, he was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This commission has performed an historic role and precedent in revealing the truth about atrocities committed in the past and providing the means of peaceful resolutions for the pain and humiliation suffered by that nation. Today, he continues to champion the plight of social justice.

I would like to acknowledge other recipients of the Immortal Chaplains Prize for Humanity that were awarded posthumously, U.S. Coast Guard Stewardmate Charles W. David, an African-American who lost his life as a result of rescuing survivors of the *Dorchester* on which the Chaplains and some 700 individuals perished and Amy Biehl, an outstanding young American Fulbright Scholar who was stoned to death in South Africa in 1993, where she had gone to help struggle against Apartheid. A crew member and buddy of Stewardmate David accepted the award on his behalf and Linda and Peter Biehl accepted this humanitarian award in her spirit and name. Amy's parents have made a point of returning to South Africa to participate in the "Peace and Reconciliation Process" and are incredibly forgiving of their daughter's assailants.

I would like to share with all Members an article in the *Pioneer Press* on Sunday, February 7, 1999 of relevant importance.

AWARD RECALLS CHAPLAINS' HEROISM AT SEA—ARCHBISHOP TUTU WILL BESTOW TWO HONORS IN SUNDAY CEREMONY

(By Maja Beckstrom)

David Fox knows only the barest details of his uncle's martyrdom at sea.

In the middle of the night on Feb. 3, 1943, a German torpedo blasted a hole in the side of the U.S. Army troopship *Dorchester* just off Greenland. As the ship sank, the Rev. George Fox stood on the oil-slick deck passing out life jackets to panicked men. After giving away his own preserver, the Methodist minister clasped the arms of the ship's other three chaplains—a rabbi, Catholic priest and Dutch Reformed minister. Survivors saw them standing in prayer as the *Dorchester* rolled to starboard and slipped under the waves.

They were among the 672 men who died that night in what was one of the United States' greatest maritime losses during World War II.

Now a half century later, their sacrifice on the icy North Atlantic is bringing a modern day hero to Minnesota. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a leader of South Africa's anti-apartheid movement, will present the first annual award given in the four chaplains' memory at a ceremony Sunday in Minnetonka.

The Immortal Chaplains Prize for Humanity honors someone who has risked his or her life to protect others of a different race or faith. It was created by David Fox of Hopkins, the Rev. George Fox's nephew.

After the war, the chaplains became legends. Their faces graced a 1948 stamp. Memorials were built around the country, including at the Fort Snelling Chapel and the chapel at the V.A. Medical Center in Minneapolis.

"I had grown up with the story and perhaps taken it for granted," said Fox. "Suddenly it occurred to me that it was fast disappearing. Most people I met had never heard of it."

In an effort to save the chaplains' example as an inspiration to future generations, Fox interviewed the ship's survivors, established the Immortal Chaplains Foundation and created curriculum for school children. He even enlisted the support of crew members from the German U-boat that sunk his uncle's ship.

"It's too important a story to let go, because of what it says about the potential for human compassion to cross all boundaries," he said. "Being a hero is about protecting fellow humans, putting your life on the line if necessary to protect them."

#### THE TRAGEDY

Everyone on board the *Dorchester* knew they were heading into dangerous waters. U-boats constantly prowled the sea lanes of the North Atlantic, and several ships had already been sunk. The ship sailed from Staten Island on Jan. 22, 1943. After stopping in Newfoundland, it continued with an escort of three U.S. Coast Guard cutters. On board were 902 men, mostly soldiers on their way to work on U.S. Army bases in Greenland.

On Feb. 2, one of the cutters relayed a warning. Sonar had picked up five U-boats.

"The captain said if we made it through the night, we'd have air protection the next morning from Greenland," recalled survivor Ben Epstein of Del Ray Beach, Fla. "He said sleep with everything you have—your clothes, your gloves, your life preserver."

They didn't make it. At 1 a.m., a torpedo ripped a hole in the *Dorchester's* starboard side, from the deck to below the water line. Survivor James Eardley of Westerlo, N.Y., said the thud sounded "like someone hit their fist against a wall." Men near the explosion died instantly. Panicked survivors scrambled for the upper decks in pitch blackness. The torpedo had taken out power. Eardley pushed his way from the hold up the only unblocked exit, holding a handkerchief